

## **H1-B TECHNICAL SKILLS TRAINING GRANTS**

**Grantee:** worksystems inc. (Portland, Oregon)

**Round:** 3      **Region:** 6

**Grant Amount:** \$2,800,000

**Contact:** Anne Hill  
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**Duration of Grant:** November 15, 2000 to November 14, 2002

**Population Served:** 400 people; targets incumbent, dislocated, disadvantaged, minority, unemployed, and new workers.

**Geographic Area Served:** The greater Portland region (Multnomah, Washington, and Tillamook counties)

**Targeted Industries/  
Jobs/Skills** Manufacturing/microelectronics technicians, ranging from entry-level technicians to specialized engineering positions.

**Uniqueness of Proposal:** Partners with Intel, the largest private sector employer in Oregon, which has agreed to provide hiring preferences to qualified Connect 2 Jobs program graduates; pilots a distance-learning component to explore the potential for making microelectronics training available through interactive video and self-guided instruction as an effective training model for incumbent and rural workers; recruits target population through extensive partnerships.

**Partnerships:** Intel Corporation; the Semiconductor Workforce Consortium (consisting of regional semiconductor companies, colleges and universities, the Oregon Economic Development Department, the Portland Development Commission); Portland Community College; Tillamook Bay Community College; Clackamas Community College; regional One-Stop Centers; Youth Opportunity Center; Hispanic Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce; Self-Enhancement, Incorporated; Dislocated Workers Project; Oregon Vocational Rehabilitation Division.

**The Need:** The semiconductor industry is projected to add 5,000 jobs between 1998 and 2008, growing by 22.9%. For example, Intel projects a need for 1,200 manufacturing technicians over the next 12 months.

### **BRIEF OVERVIEW OF PROJECT:**

The Connect 2 Jobs Skills Training Project will reduce the need for H-1B workers by providing a reliable pipeline of incumbent workers advancing in careers that begin with training. Successful trainees will help meet current industry demand for manufacturing/ microelectronics technicians. The project will contribute to the economic stability of the region and the health of the communities by including dislocated, disadvantaged and minority workers in the target population– better connecting these workers to career opportunities in the digital economy.